this direction. Similarly, installation of pneumatic succession system for conveying kapas through heeps to gin has been contemplated and a few ginneries in the country has been identified for modernisation. This would help cotton industry to improve efficiency and the quality of product. No specific timeframe has been fixed for implementation of the plan.

Smuggling of raw silk from China

1040. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of raw silk during last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether the prices of raw silk are lying low due to availability of cheap silk smuggled from China;

(c) whether Government have any estimates of smuggled raw silk during last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the steps taken to prevent smuggling of raw silk especially from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The average prices of different varieties of raw silk in Government Silk Exchanges, during the last five years, were as follows:—

(Price in Rs. per Kg.)

Year	Filaturel Cottage Basin	Charka	Dupion
1988-89	800	629	446
1989-90	846	689	474
1990-91	906	707	432
1991-92	1260	1057	486
1992-93	1087	826	469

(b) The downward trend in the prices of indigenous raw silk is partly attributed to the increased availability of raw silk on account of increase in indigenous production and partly due to availability of low priced silk imported under various export promotion schemes. There are also some reports of silk being smuggled into India.

(c) to (e) Smuggling is a clandestine activity and hence it is not possible to estimate the quantity of raw silk smuggled during the last 5 years. However, in view of the recent allegations about the possibilities of raw silk being smuggled into the country, the concerned Government agencies have been suitably alerted and close co-ordination is being maintained to check muggling effectively.

Reopening of Prag-Hosimi Textile Mill

1041. SHRI BHADRESHWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present condition of the Prag-Hosimi Textile Mill at Sipajhar, Assam;

(b) whether the mill has already been closed; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to reopen the Mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As for the information gathered from the Government of Assam, 50 per cent of the draw twisting section and texturising (Phase-I) of the mill was commissioned in August, 1992. The balance 50 per cent is scheduled to be completed by February 1994. Phase-II-A, which is textile section is in progress. The target date of commissioning is October, 1993. Phase-II-B which is Polycondensation section is in progress and target date of commissioning is February, 1994.

(b) and (c) Phase-I remain closed from 22nd December, 1992 to third